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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/688,333	10/17/2003	Uri Cohen	JETS-02	2289

7590 02/21/2006  
Uri Cohen  
4147 Dake Avenue  
Palo Alto, CA 94306

EXAMINER
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WILKINS III, HARRY D

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1742

DATE MAILED: 02/21/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

## Office Action Summary

**Application No.**

10/688,333

**Applicant(s)**

COHEN, URI

**Examiner**

Harry D. Wilkins, III

**Art Unit**

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on \_\_\_\_.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 2 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 2 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 07 October 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 10/7/03.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_.

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103*

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tzanavaras et al (US 5,421,987) in view of Dordi et al (US 6,416,647).

Tzanavaras et al teach (see figure 1) a method for electrofilling a metal or alloy inside at least one opening located in a front surface of a substrate, the front surface of the substrate including at least one opening and a top field surrounding the opening, wherein the opening included a bottom and sidewalls coated with an exposed metallic surface, wherein the steps of the method included immersing the substrate in an activation solution (electrolyte), applying high pressure electrolyte jets to the substrate, wherein the electrolyte included metallic ions of the metal to be plated and applying an electroplating current to the substrate to electroplate the metal inside the opening.

Thus, Tzanavaras et al fail to teach applying ultrasonic or megasonic vibrations to the substrate and the electrolyte.

Dordi et al teach (see abstract, figure 3 and related description) including an ultrasonic transducer (237) for agitating the electrolyte in a copper electroplating process.

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Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to have added a step of applying ultrasonic vibrations to the substrate and electrolyte as taught by Dordi et al to the method of Tzanavaras et al because the ultrasonic vibrations would have increased agitation, and thereby, uniformity, of the electrolyte.

3. Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tzanavaras et al (US 5,421,987) in view of Reynolds (US 5,904,827).

Tzanavaras et al teach (see figure 1) a method for electrofilling a metal or alloy inside at least one opening located in a front surface of a substrate, the front surface of the substrate including at least one opening and a top field surrounding the opening, wherein the opening included a bottom and sidewalls coated with an exposed metallic surface, wherein the steps of the method included immersing the substrate in an activation solution (electrolyte), applying high pressure electrolyte jets to the substrate, wherein the electrolyte included metallic ions of the metal to be plated and applying an electroplating current to the substrate to electroplate the metal inside the opening.

Thus, Tzanavaras et al fail to teach applying ultrasonic or megasonic vibrations to the substrate and the electrolyte.

Reynolds teaches (see abstract, figure 3 and related description) including an megasonic transducer (90-92) for agitating the electrolyte in a copper electroplating process.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to have added a step of applying megasonic vibrations to the substrate and electrolyte as taught

by Reynolds to the method of Tzanavaras et al because the megasonic vibrations would have increased uniformity of the electroplating (see Reynolds at col. 8, lines 45-56).

4. Claim 2 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tzanavaras et al (US 5,421,987) in view of either Dordi et al (US 6,416,647) or Reynolds (US 5,904,827) as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Langer et al (US 4,834,842).

The teachings of Tzanavaras et al, Dordi et al and Reynolds are described above.

None of these references expressly teach that the electrolyte plating bath included an inhibitor additive.

Langer et al (see abstract and col. 1, lines 18-34) a conventional additive for copper electroplating baths included inhibitors. The inhibitors were added to ensure a uniform deposit.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to have added an inhibitor as taught by Langer et al to the electrolyte of Tzanavaras et al because the inhibitor increased uniformity of the electroplated metal.

### ***Double Patenting***

5. The nonstatutory double patenting rejection is based on a judicially created doctrine grounded in public policy (a policy reflected in the statute) so as to prevent the unjustified or improper timewise extension of the "right to exclude" granted by a patent and to prevent possible harassment by multiple assignees. A nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting rejection is appropriate where the conflicting claims are not identical, but at least one examined application claim is not patentably distinct from the reference claim(s) because the examined application claim is either anticipated by, or would have been obvious over, the reference claim(s). See, e.g., *In re Berg*, 140 F.3d 1428, 46 USPQ2d 1226 (Fed. Cir. 1998); *In re Goodman*, 11 F.3d 1046, 29 USPQ2d 2010 (Fed. Cir. 1993); *In re Longi*, 759 F.2d 887, 225 USPQ 645 (Fed. Cir.

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1985); *In re Van Ornum*, 686 F.2d 937, 214 USPQ 761 (CCPA 1982); *In re Vogel*, 422 F.2d 438, 164 USPQ 619 (CCPA 1970); and *In re Thorington*, 418 F.2d 528, 163 USPQ 644 (CCPA 1969).

A timely filed terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c) or 1.321(d) may be used to overcome an actual or provisional rejection based on a nonstatutory double patenting ground provided the conflicting application or patent either is shown to be commonly owned with this application, or claims an invention made as a result of activities undertaken within the scope of a joint research agreement.

Effective January 1, 1994, a registered attorney or agent of record may sign a terminal disclaimer. A terminal disclaimer signed by the assignee must fully comply with 37 CFR 3.73(b).

6. Claims 1 and 2 are rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type

double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 33-38 of U.S. Patent No.

6,869,515. Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to have combined various features from the diverse dependent claims to achieve the presently claimed combination. Claim 33 teaches the steps of immersion, applying high pressure electrolyte jets and applying an electroplating current. Claim 34 suggest use of the method with a substrate including an opening and a top field surrounding the opening. Claim 38 suggests the step of applying ultrasonic or megasonic vibrations to the electrolyte and substrate.

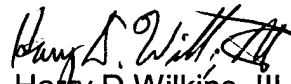
### ***Conclusion***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Harry D. Wilkins, III whose telephone number is 571-272-1251. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:30am-5:00pm.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Roy V. King can be reached on 571-272-1244. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

  
Harry D Wilkins, III  
Examiner  
Art Unit 1742

hdw